Under Direct Taxes, a suggestion from the Ministry of Commerce was received to make a provision in the Income Tax Act to provide an incentive for investment in the Tea Industry. The suggestion has been examined and the same has not been found justified as the existing tax concessions available to the tea industry under section 32 AB and section 33 A of the Income Tax Act, are considered as adequate.

Setting up of headquarters of Brahmaputra Board

2750. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the setting up of the headquarters of the Brahmaputra Board and its hydraulic research centre at Bashistha and North Guwahati; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Office of the Brahmaputra Board has been already shifted to Bashistha. Action for setting up the Hydraulic Research Laboratory has been initiated by the Board with target to complete the work by March, 1992.

Expenditure on Sarkaria Commission

2751. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on the Sarkaria Commission during its functioning for a period of five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): The expenditure incurred on the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations upto February, 1988 amounted to Rs. 150.61 lakhs.

Setting up of Tea Authority of India

2752. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the setting up of Tea Authority of India; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exemption of duty on rotable snorkels imported by Delhi Fire Service

2753. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 metres high rotable snorkels imported by Delhi Fire Service are lying at Bombay Port for the last three months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a request for 120 per cent duty exemption on the purchase has been received;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (e) The Delhi Fire Service themselves filed with Bombay Customs the necessary Bill of Entry for the clea-

rance of the imported rotable snorkels on 14.3.1988. The Bill of Entry was assessed by Bombay Customs on 16.3.1988. The duty leviable on these goods is 25 per cent *ad valorem*. A request was received from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for total exemption from payment of customs duty on these goods which the Delhi Fire Service was importing from West Germany. After careful examination, it was decided by the Government not to accede to this request because grant of such exemption involved substantial revenue implication and Municipal Corporations could get necessary grant from the concerned Ministry.

Working of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company

2754. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company is functioning satisfactorily within the general directives issued by Government from time to time;

(b) whether it is a fact that the various schemes run by the Company do not give handsome benefits to members of the investing public; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to scrutinise the various schemes and persuade the Company to improve the terms and conditions of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India have issued a fresh set of directions in May, 1987 known as "Residuary Non-Banking Companies (Reserve Bank) Directions, 1987" which are applicable to the schemes being conducted by M/s Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited. These directions, inter-alia, provide for the minimum and maximum period for which the deposits can be accepted, the rate of interest, bonus or other advantages by whatsoever name called payable on these deposits, and the manner in which the deposits are to be invested. These directions are considered essential to provide safe returns on the investments and security to the depositors.

The Reserve Bank of India has reported that the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited has brought out two new schemes in August, 1987. A perusal of the new schemes reveals that the rate of interest payable and the period of deposits are in accordance with the directions of the Reserve Bank.

Recovery of loan from M/s. Swadeshi Cotton Mills Co.

2755. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total assets of M/s. Swadeshi Cotton Mills Company Limited including fixed current and moveable immoveable assets were to the tune of more than Rs. 22 crores as per the provisional balance sheet submitted by the Company at the time of management takeover;

(b) if so, what will be the depriciated value of the aforesaid assets as on 1st April, 1985;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a sum of Rs. 35 crores given to M/s Swadeshi Cotton Mills Company Limited by the financial institutions as loan is being waived; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the above loan is recoverable under Section 29D of the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act and